

Applicant : Haim B. Gunner et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07880-121001 / UMA00-16A

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising about 10^3 cfu to about 10^{11} cfu of a bacterial strain per gram dry inert carrier ~~of a bacterial strain that exhibits degradative activity towards a toxin selected from the group consisting of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzo[a]pyrene, chlorinated aliphatic solvents, mineral oils, petroleum fuel hydrocarbons, aliphatic hydrocarbons, alicyclic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, aromatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, ethers, ketones, herbicides, insecticides, DDT, dieldrin, toxaphene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trichloroethylene, methylene chloride, toxaphene, dieldrin, lindane, aldrin, chlordane, endrin, endrin-aldehyde, heptachlor, heptachlor-epoxide, alpha-BHC, beta-BHC, gamma-BHC, delta-BHC, 4,4'-DDD, 4,4'-DDE, 4,4'-DDT, endosulfan-I, endosulfan-II, and endosulfan-sulfate, wherein said bacterial strain is designated APM-1,~~ deposited as ATCC Accession No. PTA-4838.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said carrier comprises porous, ceramic particles.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein from about 20% to about 100% of said particles have a pore size of from about 0.5 μm to about 5 μm .

5. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising about 5% to about 40% growth medium per gram of carrier on a wt/wt dry basis.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing the amount of a toxin in an environment, comprising applying an effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to said environment.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein said toxin is toxaphene.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein said toxin is trichloroethylene.

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9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein said toxin is methylene chloride.
10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein said environment is a marine environment or contaminated groundwater.
11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein said environment is soil.
12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein said environment is a toxic waste dump.
13. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor of a mammalian pathogenic fungus, comprising: contacting a ~~Gram-positive bacterium designated APM-1,~~ deposited as ATCC Accession No. PTA-4838, or an extract from said bacterium a bacterium of the bacterial strain of claim 24 with said fungus; and measuring whether growth of said pathogenic fungus is inhibited.
- 14-15. (Canceled)
16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is a *Microsporum*, *Trichophyton* or *Epidermophyton* species.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is a *Cladosporium* or *Trichosporon* species.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is a *Candida* or *Aspergillus* species.
19. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said ~~fungus~~ pathogen fungus is a human fungal pathogen.
20. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said ~~fungus~~ pathogen fungus is a fungal pathogen of dogs, cats, cattle, pigs, or sheep.
21. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain exhibits degradative activity towards a toxin selected from the group consisting of polyaromatic hydrocarbons,

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aliphatic hydrocarbons, alicyclic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, aromatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, ethers, ketones, herbicides, insecticides, DDT, dieldrin, toxaphene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 1,1 dichloroethane, trans-1,2 dichloroethene, trichloroethylene, methylene chloride, toxaphene, dieldrin, lindane, aldrin, chlordane, endrin, endrin aldehyde, heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide, alpha-BHC, beta-BHC, gamma-BHC, delta-BHC, 4,4'-DDD, 4,4'-DDE, 4,4'-DDT, endosulfan I, endosulfan II, and endosulfan sulfate.

22. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain exhibits fungicidal or fungistatic activity when applied to a soil environment.

23. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain exhibits fungicidal or fungistatic activity towards a fungal plant pathogen.

24. (New) A biologically pure culture of a bacterial strain designated APM-1, deposited as ATCC Accession No. PTA-4838.